Kindly replace the paragraph beginning at page 37, line 13 with the following paragraph.

-- Further, the braking torque slope may be computed on the basis of time series data of wheel deceleration which is detected each time a predetermined sampling time elapses, and on the basis of the braking torque detected each time a predetermined sampling time elapses or time series data of a physical amount which relates to this braking torque (refer to Figs. 2, 3 and the like of JP-A No. 10-114263). --

IN THE CLAIMS:

Kindly cancel Claim 1 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein.

Kindly replace Claims 2, 4 and 9 as follows.

2. (Amended) A braking force distribution control device comprising:

wheel speed detecting means for detecting wheel speeds of respective wheels of a vehicle;

road surface μ slope estimating means for, on the basis of the detected wheel speeds, estimating for the respective wheels slopes of a coefficient of friction μ between the wheels and a road surface as road surface μ slopes;

control means for, on the basis of the road surface μ slopes estimated for the respective wheels by the road surface μ slope estimating means, distributing braking forces to the respective wheels by controlling the braking force of each wheel; and

wherein on the basis of the detected wheel speeds, the road surface μ slope

estimating means estimates slopes of braking forces with respect to wheel slip speeds as the

road surface μ slopes for the respective wheels, and the control means controls a braking

torque of a wheel which is an object of control on the basis of the road surface μ slope of

the wheel which is an object of control and the road surface μ slope of a reference wheel

among the road surface μ slopes estimated by the road surface μ slope estimating means.

4.   (Amended) A braking force distribution control device according to claim 3,

wherein when the control means one of maintains and reduces the braking torque of one of

the rear wheels, the control means maintains the braking torque of another of the rear

wheels.

9.   (Amended) A braking force distribution control device comprising:

wheel speed detecting means for detecting wheel speeds of respective wheels of a

vehicle;

road surface μ slope estimating means for, on the basis of the detected wheel

speeds, estimating for the respective wheels slopes of a coefficient of friction μ between the

wheels and a road surface as road surface μ slopes;

control means for, on the basis of the road surface μ slopes estimated for the

respective wheels by the road surface μ slope estimating means, distributing braking forces

to the respective wheels by controlling the braking force of each wheel; and

wherein the control means includes:

a wheel target braking force computing means for computing target braking forces of the respective wheels on the basis of the estimated road surface μ slopes of the respective wheels and a target braking force of the vehicle; and

a braking force control means for controlling the braking forces of the respective wheels on the basis of the computed target braking forces of the respective wheels.